

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6619

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, US, VS

SUBJECT: FOOTNOTE TO BANGLADESH'S CELEBRATION OF NORTH
VIETNAMESE "LIBERATION" OF SOUTH VIETNAM

1. THE ALL-OUT CELEBRATION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE
VICTORY THIS PAST WEEK BY THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT,
THE RULING BAKSAL PARTY, AND THE CONTROLLED PRESS AND
TELEVISION HAS BEEN A USEFUL REMINDER OF A BASIC
TRUTH ABOUT BANGLADESH POLITICS WHICH HAS BEEN LARGELY
OBSCURED BY THE STEADILY IMPROVING ATMOSPHERE IN
BANGLADESH-US RELATIONS, AND THAT IS THAT THE SELF-
IMAGE OF THE BANGLADESH LEADERSHIP IS STILL ONE OF
ANTI-IMPERIALISM IN WHICH THE "IMPERIALISM" IS
GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE AMERICAN.

2. THUS WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS OF THE STRUGGLE
AGAINST "IMPERIALISM" IN VIETNAM, AS HE DID LAST WEEK,
HE MEANS AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, JUST AS THE MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE, WHEN HE HAS ATTACKED "IMPERIALIST" PLANS
FOR DIEGO GARCIA ON EARLIER OCCASIONS, HAS MEANT
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.

3. THIS CAN LEAD TO INTERESTING JUXTAPOSITIONS AS IT
DID AGAIN LAST WEEK WHEN, IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE
JUBILATION OVER THE AMERICAN DEFEAT IN VIETNAM, THE
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PLANNING COMMISSION GAVE US A PREVIEW OF THEIR REQUEST

FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A MILLION TONS OF FOODGRAIN FOR
FY-76 -- I.E., THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE BILL FOR FEEDING
THE URBAN POPULATION OF BANGLADESH FOR NEXT YEAR. AND
THE SAD THING IS THAT THERE ARE FEW BDG OFFICIALS INDEED
WHO WOULD SEE ANY INCONSISTENCY IN THESE TWO POSTURES.
BOSTER

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NNN

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